

The GARZETTE

September 2005

Volume 14, Issue 9



From the President's Desk

David Adcock, KA4KKF

It's wet, wet, wet. September is here and it is wet. Sound familiar, it was hot, hot, hot for August.

Have you gotten the QST? The best way to get it is to join the A.R.R.L. You can also sign up for free email forwarding service and the section manager report plus other reports on contest and events. The web site has other interesting subjects to explore.

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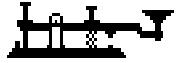
August was a sad month for us as we lost one of our own. Carl was one of our most active members and a key player in the Gwinnett Amateur Radio community. Carl was active in several clubs and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Carl was ready to go at a moment's notice to help with any activity GARS provided. Carl will be missed by all; our thoughts go with Mavis and Carl's family.

It's September and Shelby is here. Hope to see you there. Before you know it, November will be here and the Alford hamfest will be here. Time flies when you're having fun. If November is around the corner then Christmas is not far away. Wow, time flies. Soon it will be February and the elections. Have you thought about what you can do for GARS. Think about stepping up to the plate and help out. We have an excellent club in Gwinnett County and we have fun. It needs people to make it run. Think about running for office. It's not hard work.

Snellville Middle School is preparing to start a radio club. We need help in getting this club going and making sure we have someone to turn the helm over to in the future. This is her letter to me about the club. (more on page 6)

Well, its time to close and I'll ask again. GARS is looking for a newsletter editor. We need someone to gather information for the GARZETTE each month. Contact Norm wa4z xv if you want more information about the job.

*See you at the next meeting . See you on the air.
73 till next time,*



August Meeting Minutes

August GARS General Meeting

August 9, 2005 – Minutes

David Adcock KA4KKF, Club President, opened the business portion of the meeting at 7:42pm local.

Opening statements included

mention of a card for Bill Cherepy WB4WTN who will be having surgery this week.

Sign up sheet for the Dog Show is going around also. Dog Show is Aug 26, 27, 28.

Reminder that membership applications could be found up front

Mike K4HBI has parts to be given away to a good home at the table up front also.

First contact award was given to KI4LAS from W4DTR

Garzette has been sent out via email. There were some server issues with this one and many emails bounced. If you didn't get the July Garzette you can find it in the Garzette Archives on the GARS website.

Treasurer's Report – Dan KF4YSU – club transferred \$2500 to a CD

Repeater Report – Eddie WD4JEM – need to clean out the building. Still looking for a place to store equipment that's there.

Susan AF4FO – suggested that an honorary lifetime membership be conferred upon Johnny Fearon for his years of service to the club. Decision will go to committee that will meet immediately after the general meeting.

Holiday Party – Friday December 2. Meet at 6:30pm, Eat at 7:00pm. Will be held at St. Marguerite's Church. Same room as the General Meetings.

Gordon KA4OKA – made mention that the Conyers club would be selling dual band J-pole antennas again this year. Price should be \$25.

Win N1TWX – new Technician class course will be starting on Sept 14 at Central Gwinnett HS. Susan AF4FO suggested trying to set up a demo somewhere prior to class starting to drum up interest and students for the course.

Shelby Hamfest – Labor Day weekend in Shelby, NC

Ellijay Hamfest – 8/13

QCWA – 8/27

See Susan's Newsletter, QST, or ARRL website for a listing of events

Norm WA4ZXV – North Georgia QRP is meeting Sat 8/13. See Norm for more info.

After a break – Presentation by Andrea Hartlage KG4IUM on her experience at Space Camp this summer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm

Working Hard at the Dog Show



GARS Apparel

Several items of clothing that feature our Club logo and/or your call sign are available to Club members. These items include polo shirts, sweat shirts, caps, jackets and other articles. Call sign badges can also be ordered. See Dan Keohan, KF4YSU, at the next Club meeting for a listing of items and their associated costs.



Executive Committee Meeting

All interested individuals are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly Executive Committee Meeting. Presently, these gatherings occur one hour in advance of the regular Club Meeting. The location is in a classroom immediately near the Club meeting space.

Several years ago these Ex. Comm. meetings were instituted for the purpose of saving more time in our Club meetings for "radio talk" verses the business of the Club. To that end, they have been successful. However, some members enjoy ALL aspects of the Club, and as such, are encouraged to come, participate, share insights and opinions! We will all be benefited by the sharing of ideas & experience.

For the latest Club news, visit the GARS Website:

<http://www.gars.org>



GARS Elmers

Many of us, Hams, got interested in the hobby (service) as a result of some influence an experienced Ham had on us. The GARS organization is blessed with a lot of talented members that are willing to share their knowledge. The following list is made up of those individuals willing to serve as Elmers. Hopefully, this list will grow, and in time, maybe we'll get more who are willing to add a particular area of expertise.

KF4KSE David Moon (770) 279-9924
mobile radio installation

KG4IUM Andrea Hartlage (770) 963-2715 making QSL cards

KG4FXG, Bill Carter, (770) 339-4531
Mobile CW

WA4DYD, Stan Edwards (770) 923-8770
Emergency Communications

GENERAL INFORMATION:

WE5O Ron Langston (770) 569-8354

N1TWX Win Jackson (404) 869-1347

W4WKP Johnnie Fearon

WB2YAD Duane Reynolds

WB9JSW, Carl Plotz

K4MJK Mike Kovak

K4CB Carter Bennett (770) 923-5446

K4HBI Mike Swiderski (770) 449-0369

W8KJM, Barney Barnes (APRS)

If you'd like to be a GARS Elmer, please email the editor of the Garzette

For better looking graphics, be sure to view the Garzette on the web site. You'll find it under the Garzette section then in the archives.

<http://www.gars.org>

CLUB OFFICERS

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Earl Whatley, AF4FG

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Dan Keohan, KF4YSU

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Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV

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770-925-9549

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Tech Fest

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Net Manager

Scott Hartlage, KF4PWI

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Education Coordinator

Win Jackson, N1TWX
(404)869-1347

Club Meeting Coordinator

Jack Shipley, W4UVQ

Apparel Manager

Dan Keohan, KF4YSU

Holiday Party Co-Chairs

Carl Plotz, WB9JSW

Mavis Plotz, N9FWG

QSL Manager OPEN

Webmaster

Norman Schklar, WA4ZXV

Scholarship Chairman

Carter Wood, AG4LK

Technical Advisor

Mike Swiderski, K4HBI



Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday
Kennehoochee ARC
 First United Methodist Church in
 Marietta
 Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
 Talk In 146.880(-)

Second Monday
Georgia Tech ARC
 Room W218
 Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg.
 Georgia Tech Campus
 Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday
Atlanta Radio Club
 Georgia Red Cross HQ
 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
 Meeting is at 7:30 PM
 Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC
 Commerce Public Library
 Meeting is at 6:30 PM
 Talk In - 147.225(+)
 PL 123.0

Second Thursday
Alford Memorial Radio Club
 Annistown Road Baptist Church
 Intersection of Annistown Rd & Spain
 Rd
 Stone Mountain
 Dinner at 6:00 PM
 Meeting at 7:30 PM
 Talk In - 146.760(-)

Third Thursday
North Fulton Amateur Radio League
 Southern Skillet
 1037 Alpharetta St., Roswell
 Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30
 PM
 Talk In - 145.47(-)

First Saturday
North GA QRP Club
 Wieuca Baptist Church on Peachtree
 Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org

First Saturday, Even Months

9:00AM
 EOC Building
 Butch Nitz, AF4FS (770) 968-8780

First Wednesday

7:00 PM
 ARRL/VEC
 Roberts School
 4681 School Street,
 Acworth
 Jodi Escher AG4BK
 770-387-1591

Second Tuesday

7:00PM
 Walton EMC
 3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville
 Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA
 (770)498-7759

Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC
 8:30 AM
 Stone Mountain Methodist Church
 5312 West Mountain St.
 Stone Mountain
 Bob Varone, W4ETN
 (770)978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC
 9:00AM
 Marietta First United Methodist Church
 Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave
 Marietta
 David Still, WB4RRD
 (770) 973-2566

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
 7:00 PM
 United Way Service Center
 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville

Third Sunday

W5YI VEC
 3:00 – 5:00 PM
 St. John Neumann Church
 801 Tom Smith Road Lilburn
 Headphones Provided! Howie Gould,
 W9HG (770)921-8362

Fourth Sunday

2:30 PM
 Georgia Tech Student Center
 Room 301
 David Ziskind, KE4QLH
 (404) 966-6864

GARS Communication System

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)
 82.5 PL Tone

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
 82.5 PL Tone

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
 82.5 PL Tone

Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites

Bogart Road, Buford
 Goshen Springs Road, Norcross
 Lanier Mountain, Snellville

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud
 W4GR/Relay





American Red Cross Asks New Prospective Volunteers to Stand By (Sep 12, 2005) -- ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, says the response to the American Red Cross's urgent call over the weekend for Amateur Radio volunteers was so successful that he's asking additional volunteers to stand by until the agency renews its call for more Amateur Radio operators. Sarratt said he and his team at the American Red Cross volunteer marshaling center in Montgomery, Alabama, are processing the volunteers who responded from the urgent call this past weekend and matching up available volunteers

with needs. Sarratt says the Red Cross so far has processed upward of 100 Amateur Radio volunteers for its Gulf Coast disaster relief effort. He anticipates the agency will need additional volunteers in the near future, but suggests that anyone interested in signing up wait for another announcement. Amateur Radio is a major means of emergency communications for a number of critical disaster relief efforts, Sarratt said.



Amateur Radio Volunteers Filling Many Communication Gaps in Gulf Region (Sep 8, 2005) -- Amateur Radio operators from states along the Gulf Coast and elsewhere in the US continue to volunteer their skills and expertise as the Hurricane Katrina relief effort heads into its third week. ARRL Section Managers (SMs) and Section Emergency Coordinators (SECs) across and around the affected region have been teleconferencing daily to keep their efforts on the same page. In the field, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other volunteers are assisting as needed to support communication for relief agencies as well as for state and local government and even the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Louisiana SEC Gary Stratton, K5GLS, reports that earlier this week Amateur Radio was the only means for state officials at the state emergency operations center (EOC) in Baton Rouge to communicate with the so-called "Florida parishes" above Lake Pontchartrain.

NCVEC Question Pool Committee announces new schedule (Sep 12, 2005) -- The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has announced that the Question Pool Committee (QPC) has adjusted its schedule for revising Amateur Radio examination question pools. This decision was prompted by recent FCC announcements, changes in radio communication technology and recommendations from VECs. "The QPC feels it is imperative to produce a new Technician Class pool now to better position the Amateur Radio Service for growth in the years ahead," the QPC said in a statement released September 9. "The new

 schedule impacts previously announced release dates for all three question pools." The Technician class (Element 2) pool now tops the schedule and is due for release in January 1, 2006, effective July 1, 2006. General class (Element 3) pool updates, previously scheduled to become effective on July 1, 2008, will be released December 1, 2006, and become effective July 1, 2007. The Extra class (Element 4) pool originally scheduled for 2005, will be released on December 1, 2007, and will become effective July 1, 2008. Barring any major rules changes, subsequent updates to all pools will follow the traditional four-year cycle, the QPC said. Selected by representatives of the 12 VECs attending the NCVEC's annual conference. The QPC consists of Chair Jim Wiley, KL7CC, Anchorage VEC; Perry Green, WY1O, ARRL VEC, and Larry Pollock, NB5X, W5YI VEC. A team of associates representing various VEC organizations as well as experts selected from the amateur community will assist the QPC. Interested persons are encouraged to submit questions to the NCVEC QPC via the NCVEC Web site.

Do you know a boy or girl
14 to 21 years old
who wants to:

- Climb, hike, canoe, camp
- Talk on an amateur radio
 - Have Fun
?

Tell them about



Venture Crew 73

We meet the first Tuesday of each Month, 7:30PM at Prospect United Methodist Church Youth room.

For more information Visit

www.gars.org/crew73

or contact Ray Back:

Email crew73@gars.org

Phone (678) 380-1728

Request from Snellville Middle School

David,

I teach Journalism at Snellville Middle School and am starting an Amateur Radio Club here this year. I know almost nothing about this great activity except what I learned at the Field Day in June at Rhodes-Jordan Park. I was so excited about everything that I have committed myself to sponsoring a club at school this year!

After I got permission from the administration, I secured a co-sponsor at the school, someone who has actually been a ham but who is not currently involved. I have reserved dates on the calendar already (twice a month, mornings) and now I need the most important link: GARS!

We have a low frequency radio here at school that we can use as well as an antennae, but I need some currently licensed who can actually demonstrate things to the kids and teach them. (The Tech Ed teacher says it only strong enough to reach the repeater at Stone Mountain.) I am hoping that we will generate enough interest for some of them to be working on their initial license. I see myself as a facilitator - getting the folks together who can teach them about ham radio and kids who are interested in learning. I will pretty much be learning with the kids! I see from your website that I have missed the August meeting. I will try to attend your Sept. meeting so I can meet some of you. I did meet a few folks at Field Day. I may have met you!

Anyway, maybe you have some retired members who would be interested in working with me this year. The meetings will be the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 8:00 - 8:55. Most of your members work, I imagine, so that eliminates a lot. But hopefully a few members would agree to share this responsibility and take turns coming to our meetings. I am so excited about this. I want these kids to have the opportunity to learn about amateur radio.

DARK SUCKERS AND HAM RADIO

Contributed by
Earl Whatley, AF4FG

Perhaps you've heard something of the Dark Sucker story. I first learned of it through the Boy Scouts where its existence has been quietly discussed if not wholly believed in some leadership circles. It is becoming more widely known now and is beginning to "get traction" in some areas of the general media so I did some research on the theory and its application in amateur radio.

The basis of the Dark Sucker Theory (DST) is that light bulbs don't emit light - they suck dark. The proof is usually presented in some variation of the following.

Dark has mass

Dark is faster than light

Dark is heavier than light

Dark Has Mass

An operating dark sucker sucks light from the surrounding area. Notice that it is much lighter around the end of an operating dark sucker. As the dark passes through the cover or surface of the dark sucker (light bulb, candle, etc) heat is generated. This is because the mass of dark creates friction as it passes through the lens. The existence of the heat is measurable and thus proves that dark has mass

Dark Is Faster Than Light

You can duplicate this proof in your home. Sit at your desk in a bright room. You know that the closed desk drawer is full of dark. Slowly open the drawer. You

will see the light slowly enter the drawer but you can't see the dark escape! Now close the drawer and take a breath. Then open the drawer very quickly. The dark immediately disappears! These two simple tests clearly demonstrate that dark is faster than light.

Dark Is Heavier Than Light

Go swimming in a lake. As you swim close to the surface you can see things around you but as you swim deeper and deeper it becomes darker and seeing becomes more difficult. At some point you will not be able to see at all. This is because dark is heavier than light and sinks to the bottom of the lake. The light floats on top of the dark! (That's why we call it light) Now let us look at some of the consequences of the theory and see how it works. A flashlight is a dark sucker. As the dark is sucked into the unit it is absorbed in dark sucker storage units, once called batteries.

... Next column

The larger the storage unit the more dark can be sucked but at some point the storage unit becomes full and must be replaced or emptied before the dark sucker can function properly again. In your home, the wires from the power company are the means that carry the dark away.

Turn on your car's dark suckers on a dark night. You will notice that it is much less dark around the front of the dark suckers. This is because an automobile's dark suckers are much more powerful than a flashlight and much more dark is being sucked into your car's dark storage unit.

But what about your radio? We have been taught that a ray of light is merely a radio wave on a different frequency. By sucking away all the dark except the radio wave we are able to hear the signal. Therefore our radios are merely a form of dark sucker. That explains the receiver, but how do the radio waves get there in the first place? When we speak into a microphone a sound wave creates electrical energy. That energy (light on a different frequency) is absorbed into the radio, mixed with dark (from the power company's lines) and dumped into the antenna and thus into the air.

By combining the electrical wave created by our voice (or CW key) with dark sucked from another source our transmitted signal becomes stronger. This is why the tubes in an amplifier appear to glow. These dark suckers do not suck pure dark but, due to the nature of radio waves, they suck only that portion that can be combined with our signal. This is why a tube sucks all but the orange portion of the spectrum.

In future articles we will explore other aspects of this newly discovered area of science including circuit components, CW, the F layer, moon bounce, microwaves, etc. We will also attempt to answer questions that probably occurred to you when you read this article such as "what does the power company do with the dark it absorbs?" In the meantime, I'll try to answer any questions you might have. Send them to darksuckerradio@bellsouth.net

As preposterous as this may sound to you, don't let your prejudice and predisposition to conventional thinking place you in the same category as those who thought Galileo and Copernicus were crazy. I suspect Marconi had his detractors when he said he could send messages through the air but we proved them wrong with every QSO. The day may soon come when those who laugh at the DST will realize how foolish they have been.

PS: You can recognize a believer when you hear him say "My radio really sucks"

GARS Appreciates these fine sponsors that support our great organization!

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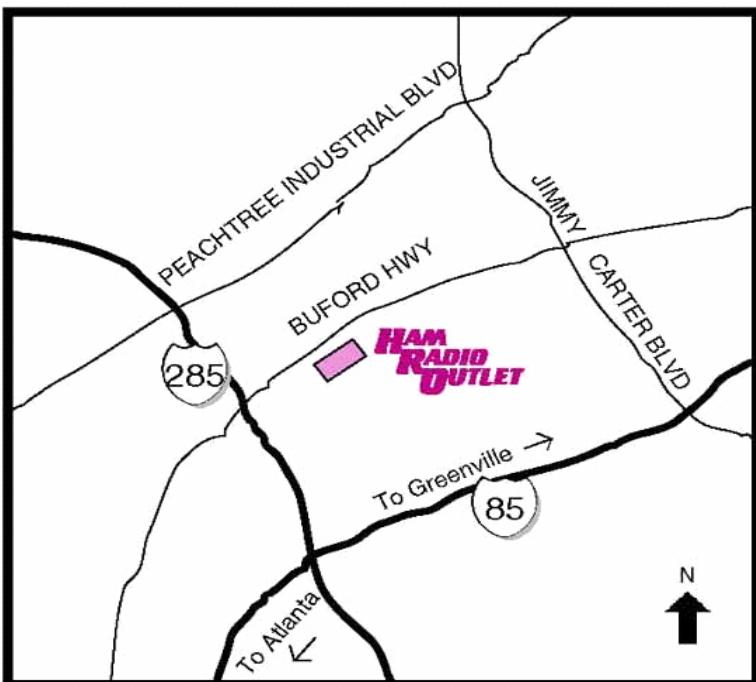
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Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER
RENEWAL

Amateur Call Sign _____ License _____ Class _____ Novice _____ Technician _____ General _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email address _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____

Cell Telephone _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ (mm/dd/yy)

ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I prefer to receive the GARZETTE newsletter by: US Mail Email (please check only one)

Type of Membership

Individual \$30.00 annually

Repeater Fund \$ _____

Student \$15.00 annually

Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65)

Family ** \$35.00 annually

** Available for family members residing at the same address

Optional Contributions

Additional Family Members **

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

GARS USE ONLY

Date App Rcvd _____ / _____ / _____

Pmt Rcvd _____ / _____ / _____

Payment Amt \$ _____

Mem Appr _____ / _____ / _____

Database _____ / _____ / _____

Amateur Radio Awareness Day to Feature Emergency Power Operating Event



ARRL Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be on the air for the Amateur Radio Awareness Day Emergency Power Operating Event September 17. Here, W1AW Manager Joe Garcia, NJ1Q (left), and ARRL Building Manager Greg Kwasowski, KB1GJF, do some routine maintenance work on W1AW's 60-kW emergency backup

Getting on the air for the Emergency Power Operating Event requires nothing more than a battery-powered handheld transceiver.

Possible alternative power sources for the EPOE September 17. Wind, solar and even hand-powered gen-

out the details. W1AW Station Manager Joe Garcia, NJ1Q, says the whole point is to showcase that Amateur Radio is prepared during National Preparedness Month--"and any time, for that matter," he adds. A special QSL will be available to stations contacting W1AW while running from an emergency power source. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with all QSL card requests, and indicate on your card the emergency power source used. (Address cards to W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.)

ARRL Membership

Application

Questions? Rather join by phone?
Call (toll-free in the US) 1-888-277-5289
www.arrl.org
[/forms/member_general-99.html](http://forms/member_general-99.html)



The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or by email to wa4z xv@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding & labeling. John A. Davis, WB4QDX, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Paul McInnish, K4BET who manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:

Newsletter Editor:

Norm Schklar, WA4Z XV
(770-840-9664)
wa4z xv@schklar.com

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048
Attn: Newsletter Editor

2005 Calendar

Please help keep our calendar current by sending updates and additional events to the editor

Sep 13 Meeting
Oct 15 Jamboree on the Air
Oct Fly-in
Oct 11 Meeting
Oct 20 Berkeley Lake School Demo
Nov 5-6 Alford Memorial Hamfest
Nov 8 Meeting
Dec Party

17 Sep 2005 + Paulding Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.pauldingarc.com>

5-6 Nov 2005 * Georgia Section Convention/
Stone Mountain Hamfest & Computer Expo
Alford Memorial Radio Club
<http://www.totr-radio.org>

GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 8AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville
- 15th of each month: Deadline for submittal of articles for the following month's GARZETTE



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
PO Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048

To receive the **Garzette** via e mail contact, please contact the membership chairman



Next Meeting

September 13

***Come Join us for another
interesting meeting of
GARS***

***Meetings are on the Second
Tuesday of the month
7:30pm at the
St Marguerite D'Youville
Church, 85 Gloster Rd NW,
Lawrenceville, GA 30044.
Just off Highway 29 SW of
Lawrenceville.***

***Directions on the Web Site.
<http://www.gars.org>***

